

Comm Comfort

SrNCO gathers 481 blankets, 468 gloves for grandmothers, children

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MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Senior Master Sgt. Robin Frank knew when she arrived in this less developed country she wanted to do something for the people.

So, after taking several trips to hospitals, orphanages and other non-governmental organizations, this superintendent of the 376th

Expeditionary Communications Squadron here, found she wanted to give something to all of them. After some consideration, she realized comfort was the simplest answer.

"I got to thinking about how my kids always had a special blanket of their own," she said. "My little boy had a yellow blanket he took everywhere. Even when the satin trim was gone, he just loved his blankie."

Her mother-in-law recently taught her how to knit, and she needed practice, so a project was born. Though she finished a few blankets and five pairs of booties, tendonitis in her arms made knitting difficult and she knew she couldn't knit as many as she

wanted to distribute.

With the help of friends, the endeavor blossomed. Her squadron commander, Lt. Col. Laurie Lisec, heard about the project and enlisted the help of her church at home. In the end, Sergeant Frank collected 481 blankets and 468 pairs of mittens and gloves in addition to those she knitted herself.

Half the blankets found homes at the Belovodsky, Red River and Tok Mok orphanages outside Bishkek, the rest were sent to the National Center of Pediatric and Child Surgery in Bishkek and to elderly "babushkas" or grandmothers, throughout the country.

"Everyone needs to have something special like that that's just theirs," added Sergeant Frank.



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